

Minutes  
Human Services Commission  
Thursday, April 24, 2003  
5:00 P.M.  
Vista del Camino  
7700 E. Roosevelt  
Scottsdale, AZ 85257

Present: Chairwoman Fausel, Vice-Chair Bachmann, Commissioners Bilsens, Bitenc, Broshar, Coudroglou and Resnick

Staff Present: Connie James, John Larrivee, Mary Kay Rieke, Mark Bethel, Vicki French, Amy Pendleton, Kasey Moyers, Valerie Kime Trujillo, Rita Koppinger, Pat Leos, Carmen Cancino, Margaret Rosenhan, Jodi Campbell, Angie Guiterrez, Serene Carney, Kathy Breen, David Brough, Stacy Benson, Sharon Light-Stephenson, Bill Exham, Terry Erickson, Tara Dittmer, Kim McLane, Doug Nesselroad, Robin Rodgers, Alma Estefano, Gabriella Gardner

CALL TO ORDER

Chairman Fausel called the meeting to order at 5:00 pm.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES FROM THE APRIL 10, 2003 MEETING

Commissioner Bilsens moved for approval of the April 10, 2003 meeting minutes; Commissioner Coudroglou seconded and the motion carried unanimously.

VISTA DEL CAMINO 30<sup>TH</sup> ANNIVERSARY COMMEMORATION

Presentations were made by the following individuals to share their experiences with Vista del Camino over the years:

Frances Young—Founder, Concerned Citizens for Community Health discussed her 30-year involvement with the Yaqui community and her founding of Concerned Citizens for Community Health (CCCH) and how they, with the Yaqui community and the City of Scottsdale, worked to create Vista del Camino. She discussed the instrumental work of the members of CCCH, the Yaqui Community and the staff at Vista both in the past and today that make Vista del Camino so special and so important today and everyday.

Lorraine Frank, former city employee who was instrumental in the development of Vista del Camino discussed the history of Vista and how former City Manager, Bob Donaldson worked with the Yaqui community in the development of Vista. Ms. Frank gave the historical background on Vista, such as the concern of citizens over the separation of the Yaqui community. She also discussed a visit from ASU professor and current commission member, Alik Coudroglou, and her concern that the Yaqui community was kept in the forefront during the development of the Indian Bend Wash. Lorraine also discussed how she was also a client at Vista, when she had to pick up medicine there for a rare form of tuberculosis.

Gabe Martinez—Yaqui Community Leader discussed his work with Vista both as a community leader and a member of the community. He discussed his long-term friendship with Frances Young and his work with other city staff and community members, and the many family and community celebrations and events. He thanked staff and community members for their assistance, concern and caring throughout the years.

Diane Fausel—Former Vista del Camino Manager discussed how she came to Vista and how she hired now Human Services Director, Connie James because she was “what Vista needed”.

Crystal Vargas – a representative from the Vista del Camino Teen Council said she has been involved with Vista, “all my life” and that that involvement has allowed her to grow – for example, being involved in

the Teen Council and Ballet Folklórico. She discussed how lucky she and other teens like her are, when children in Iraq are “playing with machine guns” when they should be “playing basketball and football” like they do at Vista. She thanked staff for all of their help and all those who made Vista possible.

Millicent Joersz – Parent of Vista program participants talked about her involvement with Vista and how that involvement allowed her to have hope and a feeling of safety. She was very grateful for all that Vista did for her and her family, including giving her guidance to assist her with a behavioral problem with her child. She thanked Vista staff for all they have done for her “from the bottom of my heart.”

Marie Phipps – Volunteer at Vista del Camino discussed how she came to Vista, initially, because she “needed something to do” as her husband had passed on. Now as a volunteer 12 years later, she stated that she “loves Vista and loves working here”.

Georgia Bayless – Community member and participant in Vista programs talked about her 30 year involvement with Vista and how she has come both to help and be helped by staff and the other people who frequent Vista del Camino. She talked about the sewing group that she started and that continues and that the people at Vista are very special. She said she has “been coming to Vista for 30 years and hopes to be coming for another 30 years.”

#### STAFF AND COMMISSION UPDATES

There were no staff and commission updates.

#### OPEN CALL TO THE PUBLIC

Chairwoman Fausel made an open call to the public for comments/questions/announcements or other business.

Aurora Martinez talked about living and leaving Vista and that she always “wanted to come back”. Now with two children of her own, Ms. Martinez talked about how important it is that the Yaqui people stay together and continue to keep alive their history in culture.

Debra Baird, Parks, Recreation and Facilities Director talked about how she started at Vista as a Recreation Leader and how that experience was the “best” of all her work at the city. She also talked about the friendships she has made and how they have continued to this day, particularly her friendship with Connie James.

Kathy Breen, Recreation Coordinator at Paiute Neighborhood Center, discussed how she started at Vista and how she has watched the children grow since then. She expressed deep appreciation for her time at Vista and how she believes it is a “special place” that she still misses.

Terry Erickson, Neighborhood Parks Coordinator, discussed how she started as a Recreation Leader at Vista and how she was “told” she would have to leave after 7 years. Although she didn’t want to leave because she “loved it” – she realizes how special Vista is and how her experience was important, but that others deserved to experience Vista as well.

Severn Barsted discussed his involvement with Vista, even before it existed, and how, although he now lives in Tempe, he misses it and is thankful for the friendships he has made, such as Gabe and Louisa Martinez, Frances Young and Petra Martinez, and how those friendships have lasted.

Maxine, an “80-year old” sewing group member said how important Vista was to her because “when you’re lonely, the staff make you feel like you are family.” She said she wants to come to Vista until she is “90!”

Valerie Kime Trujillo, former Manager at Vista del Camino and now Resource Development Specialist for Human Services Administration, talked about her time at Vista and knew when she came to interview that Vista "was a special place". She talked about donors and how, every holiday season, just when staff thought they wouldn't get the donations needed for the adopted families, the back doorbell would "ring and ring" and there would be more than enough for all those in need. She said she has never seen such "generosity and caring" as she has seen in the Scottsdale community. She also talked about two very special memories: the donation of pasta to Vista Food Bank from the Yavapai pre-schoolers and how they formed a "train of little red wagons that were filled with pasta". She also talked about Cocopah School and how they brought "pick up trucks of turkeys" during the holiday season. She also recounted how realtors that had adopted families cried when they saw what their donations did for those in need.

Rita Koppinger said that she was grateful to be working at Vista and most grateful and appreciative of the "wonderful staff" that she works with at Vista every day.

#### ADJOURNMENT

With no further business to be brought before the commission, Chairwoman Fausel asked for a motion to adjourn the meeting. Commissioner Bilsens moved to adjourn the meeting and Vice-chair Bachmann seconded. The motion carried unanimously and the meeting adjourned at 6:40 pm.

Respectfully submitted by Mary Beth Bossert, Recording Secretary.

Meets established criteria.

Connie James  
Director, Human Services